

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1846

INFO USDOC WASHDC UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USDOC FOR BEWT FOR DOWNEY

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR COOPER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, GE, US

SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR UNDER SECRETARY BAKER TO VISIT GDR

REF: STATE 293743; STATE 295800, BERLIN 6882

1. EMBASSY ECON OFFICER WAS RECEIVED BY MFT (SCHMIED) ON DECEMBER 18 AFTER TWO DAYS OF MFA PREVARICATIONON SETTING AN APPOINTMENT AND A BRIEF INTERVAL IN WHICH IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT BEIL'S IMMEDIATE SUBORDINATE, DIRECTOR GENERAL KIRSTEN, WOULD SPEAK FOR THE GDR.

2. EMBOFF SAID IT HAD COME TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION THAT IN A RADIO INTERVIEW ON THIS RETURN TO THE GDR FROM THE UNITED STATES, DR.BEIL HAD SAID REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND UNDER SECRETARY BAKER HAD BEEN ARRANGED AND THE LIKLIHOOD OF A VISIT BY UNDER SECRETARY BAKER TO THE LEIPZIG SPRING FAIR HAD BEEN MENTIONED. THE USG WAS SURPRISED AT THESE STATEMENTS, WHICH HAVE
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NO BASIS IN CONVERSATIOIS THAT DR. BEIL HAD IN

WASHINGTON. EMBOFF SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO SO INFORM THE MFT IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ON THESE POINTS.

3. SCHMIED WAS READY AND DELIVERED HIMSELF OF A TORTURED REPLY. HE SAID IN THE COURSE OF DR. BEIL'S CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT FURTHER EXCHANGES WOULD BE USEFUL. IN THESE DISCUSSIONS THE QUESTION OF VENUE FOR SUCH EXCHANGES AROSE, AND WASHINGTON AND BERLIN WERE MENTIONED. DR. BEIL EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO UNDER SECRETARY BAKER TO VISIT THE GDR AND THIS INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT ANY DATE BEING SET. ALSO IN THE COURSE OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, THE POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN TOUCHED UPON THAT UNDER SECRETARY BAKER MIGHT MAKE A TRIP TO EUROPE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976, PERHAPS IN MARCH OR APRIL. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A TRIP, DR. BEIL'S RADIO STATEMENT WAS MEANT TO ALLUDE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF UNDER SECRETARY BAKER INCLUDING A STOP AT LEIPZIG, IF HIS POSSIBLE EUROPEAN TRIP TOOK PLACE DURING THE FAIR.

4. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT IT WAS AGREED THAT FURTHER EXCHANGES WOULD BE USEFUL. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, NO COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE U.S. AS TO TIME, PLACE, OR LEVEL OF SUCH FUTURE CONTACTS. IN PARTICULAR, A VISIT TO LEIPZIG WAS NEVER MENTIONED. MR. DOWNEY HAD, IN FACT, POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTIES MR. BAKER FACED IN TRAVELING IN 1976. EMBOFF SAID HE WOULD NOTE THE MFT'S EXPLANATION OF DR. BEIL'S STATEMENT; HE HOPED THAT THE MFT WOULD SIMILARLY NOTE THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS, WHICH REMAIN THE USG'S INTERPRETATION OF CONVERATIONS WITH DR. BEIL ON THIS SUBJECTM

5. EMBOFF SAID HE APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SCHMIED ONTHIS ISSUE TO WHICH THE EMBASSY ACCORDED IMPORTANCE, AND BEGAN TO TAKE HIS LEAVE. SCHMIED INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ONE ADDITIONAL POINT. A VISIT BY UNDER SECRETARY BAKER TO THE GDR AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE LEIPZIG FAIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE WELCOMED. SUCH A VISIT WOULD GIVE UNDER SECRETARY BAKER A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF THE CAPABILITIES OF THE GDR ECONOMY, ETC., ETC. EMBOFF SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT THIS VIEWPOINT OF THE MINISTRY TO WASHINGTON.

6. COMMENT: WE THINK DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOWNEY'S PHONE CALL TO AMBASSADOR SEIBER AND THE EMBASSY'S PRESENTATION IN BERLIN HAVE MADE OUR POINT

ADEQUATELY. THERE SEEMS NO FURTHER NEED TO DEBATE WHAT
WAS SAID OR NOT SAID. BEIL, CAUGHT WITH HIS HAND DEEP
IN THE COOKIE JAR, WILL PROBABLY TAKE WITH ILL GRACE
OUR CALLING HIM TO ACCOUNT. THE GDR WATCHING FOR SIGNS
THAT THEY HAVE OR HAVE NOT DONE SO. A POOR SHOW ON
THEIR PART, NEVERTHELESS. GROVE

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